

Message Text

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47/43

ACTION AID-31

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 12907

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 12907 VICE 02907)

DEPARTMENT FOR AID COSTANTINO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SWEL, IT

SUBJ: STATUS OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN THE FRIULI

AMCONSUL TRIESTE TELEGRAM ACTION TO ROME REPEATED AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUBJECT: STATUS OF EARTHQUAKE RELIEF ACTIVITIES IN THE FRIULI

REF: 40TACG MSG DTG 151500Z 76

1. DISCUSSION WITH REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL, AND LOCAL
OFFICIALS DURING THE PAST WEEK HAVE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING PROGRESS OF RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE FRIULI.

2. HOUSING: THE SURVEY OF DAMAGED HOMES IS VIRTUALLY COMPLETE AND THE
TEMPO OF CLAIMS PROCESSING AT THE LOCAL LEVEL APPEARS TO BE INSTALLED

;

HOWEVER A REGIONAL OFFICIAL TOLD ME THAT A MAJOR DIFFICULTY HAS BEEN
THE RELUCTANCE OF MAYORS TO EXPROPRIATE LAND FROM RESIDENTS, WHO
IN THE SMALLER COMMUNES ARE VIRTUALLY ALL FRIENDS OR RELATIVES, TO
BE USED AS HOMESITES FOR OTHER RESIDENTS. A PROVINCIAL OFFICIAL
ADDED THAT PROBLEMS HAVE ALSO ARISEN BECAUSE SOME MAYORS HAVE TRIED
TO EXPROPRIATE MILITARY OWNED PROPERTY OR LAND THAT WAS OTHERWISE
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UNSUITABLE FOR CONSTRUCTION. LOCAL OFFICIALS DID NOT MENTION ANY OF

THESE PROBLEMS, POINTING TO THE FACT THAT IN ONE COMUNE CONSTRUCTION OR PREFABS DONATED BY NORWAY WAS UNDERWAY. DESPITE THE DELAYS, ALL THE OFFICIALS FELT THE PREFABS WOULD BE INSTALLED BY OCTOBER.

3. SCHOOLS: ALTHOUGH ADEQUATE FUNDS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR SCHOOL

(REFTEL), THERE WILL NOT BE SUFFICIENT CLASSROOM SPACE BY THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR TO CONDUCT CLASSES ON A NORMAL BASIS. OFFICIALS AT ALL THREE LEVELS BROUGHT UP THIS SUBJECT IN OUR CONVERSATIONS, STATING THAT RATHER THAN USING FUNDS TO INSTALL LIGHT-WEIGHT PREFABS THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE REPLACED IN ONE OR TWO YEARS, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED TO INSTALL PERMANENT UNITS (PREFABS OF THE STRENGTH CONCRETE AND BLOCK CONSTRUCTION). SEVERAL FIRMS ARE WORKING TO PROVIDE

THESE UNITS AND IT IS HOPED SOME WILL BE IN PLACE BY JANUARY. IN THE INTERIM, CLASSES WILL BE STAGGERED WHERE POSSIBLE OR BUSSING WILL BE USED. ALL OF THE OFFICIALS EXPECT SOME CRITICISM OF THIS SOLUTION: HOWEVER THEY FEEL THE LONG TERM GAIN IS WORTH THE RISK.

4. POLITICAL: TWO ILLUSTRATIONS OF HOW THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO DEAL WITH OFFENSIVES FROM THE LEFT FOLLOW: FIRST IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE REGIONAL GIUNTA WILL INCLUDE THE PCI QUOTE IN A STRICTLY TECHNICAL WAY UNQUOTE IN PLANNING SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS RELATING TO THE EARTHQUAKE; SECOND, COMELLI SENT A LENGTHY LETTER TO TRIESTE'S IL PICCOLO, IN RESPONSE TO A CRITICAL LETTER APPEARING IN THE SAME PAPER, DETAILING PROGRESS TO DATE AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. ALTHOUGH ALL OF THE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE LEFT WILL FIND NEW METHODS OF ATTACK AS SUMMER TURNS INTO FALL, THEY FELT THAT IF PROGRESS CONTINUES AT ITS CURRENT PACE THE CRITICISMS CAN BE WEATHERED. (AN EXAMPLE OF THE SORT OF TACTICS BEING USED IS THAT THE PCI SENATORS AND DEPUTIES FROM FRIULI ON AUGUST 2ND CALLED FOR THE OPENING OF SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER RATHER THAN OCTOBER TO MAKE UP FOR THE MONTH LOST THIS PAST SPRING. NATURALLY, FEWER SCHOOLS WILL BE READY TO ACCEPT STUDENTS IN SEPTEMBER THAN WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN OCTOBER AND, THUS, THE PCI WILL HAVE A GOOD TARGET WHICHEVER ACTION THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE TO TAKE.)

5. US ACTIVITY: THE REGIONAL OFFICIAL WITH WHOM I SPOKE ASKED ME TO INSURE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, THAT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT IS FORMALLY INFORMED OF ANY ASSISTANCE OR DECISIONS REGARDING ASSISTANCE WHEN THEY ARE MADE. HE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT THE REGION WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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LEARNING OF ASSISTANCE GENERALLY VIA TELEPHONE OR THE PRESS AND OFTEN AT THE LAST MOMENT, AND THAT THIS MADE IT RATHER DIFFICULT FOR HIS PEOPLE TO PLAN THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND TO PREVENT DUPLICATION OF EFFORT. PATTERSON UNQUOTE

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